

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 07821 021624Z

55

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 /076 W

----- 033417

O P 021455Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1941

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 118

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON SIX

COM THREE FOUR MAU

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7821

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION OCTOBER 2

REF: BEIRUT 7810

1. SUMMARY. LULL ON MOUNTAIN FRONT FOLLOWING UNSUCCESSFUL
CHRISTIAN ATTACK ON ALEY. PALESTINIAN/LEFTIST DEFENSES NOW
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 07821 021624Z

CONCENTRATED BELOW ALEY. GROUND SITUATION ELSEWHERE

RELATIVELY QUIET. SPORADIC BOMBARDMENTS OF BEIRUT RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS CONTINUE. NM SAYS WILL RESIST "SYRIAN CONQUEST" ON ALL FRONTS. SARKIS UNDER PRESSURE TO CONDEMN SYRIAN MOUNTAIN OFFENSIVE. SOVIET CHARGE D'AFFAIRS APPARENTLY TALLS SARKIS OF NEW SOVIET INITIATIVE ON LEBANON. NEW SECURITY MEASURES FOR WEST BEIRUT ANNOUNCED BY JOINTT PALESTINIAN, NM AND LAA SECURITY COMMAND. END SUMMARY.

2. CHRISTIAN OFFENSIVE AT ALEY. HEAVY CHRISTIAN ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENTS OF ALEY AND SUQ AL GHARB OCT 1, BUT GROUND ASSAULTS ON ALEY-SUQ AL GHARB AREA ON THREE AXES FROM AL KAHHALAH, BSUS AND BDADUN STALLED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. CAMILLE CHAMOUN AND GENERAL HANNA SAID REPORTEDLY VISITED CHRISTIAN TROOPS IN AREA. US JOURNALIST EYEWITNESS SAYS PALESTINIAN/LEFTISTS HAVE PULLED HEADQUARTERS FROM ALEY BACK TO SUQ AL GHARB IN WHAT WE SEE AS TACTICAL RESIGNMENT IN CASE OF SYRIAN ATTACK, BUT EXISTING PALESTINIAN DEFENSE IN ALEY APPEAR TO BE ADEQUATE AGAINST ASSAULT BY CHRISTIANS ONLY. PALESTINIAN LINE NOW CONCENTRATED BELOW ALEYVVO BETWEEN SUQ AL G HARB/AYNAB/BAYSUR. DRUZE IN AREA APPARENTLY KEEPING OUT OF FIGHT. LULL IN CHRISTIAN OPERATIONS BEGAN EVENING OCT 1. SITUATION AT MID-DAY OCT 2 STILL QUIET THROUGH NO OFFICIAL CEASEFIRE. NO SYRIANS YET IN ALEY AREA. OCT 1 SAW LITTLE SYRIAN MOVEMENT, BUT WE UNDERSTAND SYRIANS DID TAKE RAS EL-METN AND DEIR EL-HARF. SYRIAN CONTINUED SHELL BHAMDOUN OCT 1.

3. GROUND SITUATION ELSEWHERE. VIOLENCE LEVEL DIMINISHED COUNTRYWIDE. IN BEIRUT AREA, SPORADIC BOMBARDMENT OF RESIDENTIAL AREAS CONTINUES. SMALL-SCALE CLASHES ON CENTER CITY CONFRONTATION LINE AND IN SOUTHERN SUBURBS AT HADETH, KFAR SHIMA, SHUWAYFAT AND NEIGHBORING AREAS. IN NORTH, TRIPOLI AND ZGHORTA CONTINUE MUTUAL BOMBARDMENTS. WE UNDERSTAND SOME SYRIAN COMMANDOS IN NORHT HAVE MOVED, BUT WE NOT CLEAR TO WHERE. AN NAHAR REPORTS SYRIAN/ CHRISTIAN ARMORED CONCENTRATIONS IN NORTH. IN FAR SOUTH, WE UNDERSTAND ISRAELI OBSERVATION POST ESTABLISHED NEAR CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 07821 021624Z

KAFR KILLA, ONE AND A HALF KILOMETERS INSIDE LEBANESE TERRITORY.

4. NM AND PALESTINIANS RESIST. NATIONALMOVEMENT LEADERSHIP MET OCT 1, ISSUING STATEMENT THAT RESISTANCE TO "SYRIAN CONQUEST" WILL CONTINUE ON ALL FRONTS AND ALLIANCE OF NMM AND PALESTINIANS RESISTANCE WILL BE MAINTAINED. NM APPEALED TO ARAB WORLD AND WORLD

OPINION TO SUPPORT LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AGAINST SYRIANS. KAMAL JUNBLATT, NOW IN CAIRO, HAS TOLD NM OF AN "IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT" WITHIN 24 HOURS. JUNBLATT APPARENTLY HOPING PERSUADE CAIRO SEND EGYPTIAN STRIKE FORCE TO LEBANON OR ALTERNATIVELY LEARN FROM FM FAHMI ON RETURN FROM PARIS THAT HE HAS PERSUADED FRENCH SEND STRIKE FORCE. PALESTINIAN ENVOYS ABU MAHER AND ABU MAZEN CONTINUE CONTACTS WITH SYRIANS BUT L'ORIENT-LE JOUR SAYS PALESTINIANS NOT LIKELY GIVE POSITIVE ANSWER TO SYRIAN DIALOGUE PROPOSAL DUE HARSHNESS OF SYRIAN CONDITIONS.

9. PRESSURE ON SARKIS. NATIONAL MOVEMENT COMMUNIQUE CALLED ON SARKIS TO "UNDERTAKE THE MINIMUM OF HIS NATIONAL ROLE" AND AT LEAST STATE SYRIAN PRESENCE IS INDEPENDENT OF LEBANESE AUTHORITY. COMMUNIQUE SAID IF SARKIS YES NOT OPPOSE SYRIAN INVASION, HE IS PUTTING HIMSELF IN POSITION OF APPROVING IT. LEFTIST CHRISTIAN PATRIOTS FRONT DESCRIBES SYRIAN OBJECTIVES AS SUBMISSION OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND RECONSTRUCTION OF LEBANON ON NEW POLITICAL/CONFESSIONAL BASIS, AND CALLS ON SARKIS TO ADOPT "CLEAR ATTITUDE" ON SYRIAN MILITARY ESCALATION. LAA LEADER LT. AHMAD KHATIB CALLED ON SARKIS TO TAKE STAND ON "VIOLATION OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY BY SYRIAN FORCES."

6. SARKIS CONTACTS. SARKIS MET OCT 1 WIT HASAN SABRI KHOLI, WHO TOLD PRESS HE DISCUSSED EYS TO END FIGHTING. KHOLI SAID HE COULD NOT SAY WHETHER MINI-SUMMIT WOULD BE HELD, SINCE ALL PARTIES DO NOT AGREE ON PROPOSAL. HE DESCRIBED THREE CONDITIONS TO END CRISIS: SANG-FROID, MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AMONG PARTIES AND NATIONAL UNITY. SARKIS ALSO MET TWICE WITH CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 07821 021624Z

GENERAL HANNA SAID, AND WITH GREEK ORTHODOX NOTABLES, PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL OF DEVELOPMENT BANK SELIM HUSS AND SOCIET CHARGE D'AFFAIRES. SARKIS SENT MESSAGE TO ARAFAT, REPORTEDLY RESPONSE TO ARAFAT MESSAGE OF SEP 23. PREW REPORTS NEW SECURITY MEASURES AT MUSEUM CROSSPOINT, WITH REPUBLICAN GUARD TRANSPORTING DIPLOMATS AND OTHER SARKIS VISITORS ACROSS LINE TO BAABDA. KHOLI DENIES AL FORCE HAVE PULLED BACK FROM MUSEUM BUFFER ZONE.

7. SOVIET INITIATIVES? SARKIS MET SOVIET CHARGE VLADIMIR SELKIN OCT 1, WHO TOLD PRESS HE DISCUSSED "A NEW SOVIET INITIATIVE ON THE LEBANESE CRISIS, THE RESULTS OF WHICH WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS," BUT SOVIET CHARGE OCT 2 SEEMED TO DENY TO US REPORTER ANY SOVIET

INITIATIVE. SELKIN TOLD PRESS, "SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CRISIS, THE SOVIET UNION HAS ADOPTED AN ATTITUDE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL LEBANESE AFFAIRS," ADDING HIS MEETING WITH SARKIS CONCERNED LEBANON SITUATION, NEAR EAST CRISIS AND SOVIET/LEBANESE RELATIONS. VISIT CAME SEVERAL HOURS BEFORE MOSCOW RENEWED CALL FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE ON MIDDLE EAST. VOICE OF PALESTINE SAID YASIR ARAFAT ADDRESSED "IMPORTANT MESSAGE" ON LEBANESE SITUATION TO SOVIET LEADERSHIP ON OCT 1. BEIRUT PRESS CIRCLES, NOTING ALSO EGYPTIAN FOMIN VISIT TO PARIS, SPECULATING ON POSSIBLE NEW SOVIET OR EGYPTIAN OR FRENCH PLANS FOR LEBANON.

8. NEW WEST BEIRUT SECURITY MEASURES. JOINT SECURITY COMMAND OF PALESTINE REVOLUTION, NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND LAA ANNOUNCES NEW SECURITY MEASURES IN WEST BEIRUT IN VIEW "NEW OPERATIONS OF SYRIAN ARMY TO OCCUPY LEBANESE TERRITORY." JOINT COMMUNIQUE DESIGNATES RAS BEIRUT, HAMRA AREA, RAOUCHE, RAMLET EL-BAIDA AND OUZAI AS MILITARY ZONES WHERE CARRYING OF ARMS FORBIDDEN, THIEVES TO BE SHOT ON SIGHT, UNAUTHORIZED IDENTITY CHECKS TO BE STOPPED, ALL BARS AND CAFES TO CLOSE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE AND ALL APARTMENTS REQUISITIONED BY UNAUTHORIZED ARMED ELEMENTS TO BE VACATED WITHIN THREE DAYS.

LANE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 BEIRUT 07821 021624Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, CIVIL DISORDERS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT07821
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760372-0529
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761090/aaaadaag.tel
Line Count: 201
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 7810
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION OCTOBER 2
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, MOPS, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006